

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 5, 2008.


Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by US 6,476,830 – Farmer et al. (“Farmer”). In addition, claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. Section 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant intends to place the application in condition for appeal. The Examiner indicated that the rejection of claims 20 and 22 under Section 101 could be cured by amending these claims so that they would be directed to “a computer storage medium for storing a computer program.” Such an amendment would, however, make claims 20 and 22 almost duplicative of claims 21 and 23, respectively. Therefore, without conceding the correctness of the Section 101 rejection, Applicant has cancelled claims 20 and 22 without prejudice to Applicant’s rights to resubmit these claims in a continuing application.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that an amendment to cure the rejection of claims 20 and 22 under Section 101 would be entered. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is proper to simplify the issues on appeal. Entry of the amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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